

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor comprising:

an outer cover;

an engine disposed inside the outer cover and comprising a crankcase, a cylinder block and a cylinder head, which are operatively connected to each other in a horizontal direction in the outer cover;

an intake unit provided for the engine and including a throttle body disposed in a vicinity of the crankcase, and an intake manifold disposed on a side of the engine so as to extend from the throttle body, said intake manifold having a plurality of intake pipes extending towards intake ports formed in the cylinder head to be connected thereto and having a surge tank disposed on a downstream side of the throttle body and adjacent the crankcase, the intake pipes connecting the surge tank and the intake ports; ~~and~~

a fuel injector unit disposed in an intermediate portion of one of the intake pipes connecting the surge tank and one of the intake ports; and

an intake duct configured to provide intake air to the intake unit, the intake duct extending adjacent to a downstream side of the fuel injector unit.

2. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 1, wherein said fuel injector unit is placed in a space between a side wall of the engine and the intake manifold.

3. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor according to claim 1, ~~further comprising~~ an wherein the intake duct is connected to an upstream side of an intake passage, said intake duct being ~~disposed on~~ positioned adjacent to a downstream side of the fuel injector unit;

~~which is placed~~ in a space formed between a side wall of the engine and the intake manifold, and said intake duct is provided with an air inlet, ~~which~~ that is placed above a lowermost intake pipe of the intake manifold.

4. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 3, wherein said air inlet of the intake duct is positioned at a lower end thereof so as to open downward.

5. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 3, wherein said intake passage is formed so as to communicate with an outside air intake port formed to the outboard motor outer cover.

6. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 1, further comprising a fuel supply unit disposed on a downstream side of the fuel injector unit in a space formed between a side wall of the engine and the intake manifold.

7. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 1, wherein said fuel injector unit includes a plurality of fuel injectors provided for the intake pipes, respectively.

8. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor according to claim 7, wherein said fuel injectors are provided for the respective intake pipes at portions between the throttle body and the cylinder head and said fuel injectors are coupled together by a delivery pipe.

9. (Original) An outboard motor according to claim 1, wherein said intake manifold has a shape curved along an inner surface of the outboard motor outer cover.

10. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor comprising:

an outer cover;

an engine disposed inside the outer cover and comprising a crankcase, a cylinder block and a cylinder head, which are operatively connected to each other in the outer cover;

an intake unit provided for the engine and comprising a throttle body disposed in front of the crankcase and an intake manifold disposed on a side of the engine extending from the throttle body, said intake manifold having a plurality of intake pipes extending towards and connecting to intake ports formed in the cylinder head and having a surge tank disposed on a downstream side of the throttle body and adjacent the crankcase, the intake pipes connecting the surge tank and the intake ports;

a fuel injector unit disposed between a sidewall of the engine and the intake manifold;
and

a fuel supply unit disposed on a downstream side of the fuel injector unit between the side wall of the engine and the intake manifold, the fuel supply unit comprising a vapor separator disposed adjacent the fuel injector unit; and

an intake duct configured to provide intake air to the intake unit, the intake duct extending adjacent to a downstream side of the fuel injector unit.

11. (Currently Amended) An outboard motor comprising:

an outer cover;

an engine disposed inside the outer cover and comprising a crankcase, a cylinder block and a cylinder head, which are operatively connected to each other in a horizontal direction in the outer cover;

an intake unit provided for the engine and including a throttle body disposed in a vicinity of the crankcase, and an intake manifold disposed on a side of the engine so as to extend from the throttle body, said intake manifold having a plurality of intake pipes extending towards intake ports formed in the cylinder head to be connected thereto;

a fuel injector unit configured to deliver fuel to the intake manifold, the fuel injector unit disposed between a side wall of the engine and the intake manifold; and

~~an intake duct connected to an upstream side of an intake passage, the intake duct disposed on~~ configured to provide intake air to the intake unit, the intake duct extending adjacent to a downstream side of the fuel injector unit with respect to air flow inside the intake pipes, the intake duct provided with an air inlet at a lower end of the intake duct, the air inlet disposed above a lowermost intake pipe on the intake manifold and the air inlet opened downward.

12. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor comprising:

an engine cover;

an engine disposed inside the engine cover and comprising a crankcase, a cylinder block and a cylinder head, which are operatively connected to each other in a horizontal direction in the engine cover;

a throttle body disposed in front of the crankcase;

an intake manifold extending from the throttle body to an intake port formed on the cylinder head and connected thereto, said intake manifold having a plurality of intake pipes in a vertical arrangement on a side of the engine;

an intake passage connected to the throttle body on an upstream side thereof; and

an intake duct connected to an upstream side of the intake passage and disposed in a space formed between a side surface of the engine and the intake manifold.

13. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor according to claim 12, further comprising a fuel injector unit disposed in the space formed between the side surface of the

engine and the intake manifold nearer a side of the crankcase than a side of the intake duct.

14. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor according to claim 12, wherein the intake duct is provided with an air inlet formed at a downstream side end of the intake duct.

15. (Previously Presented) An outboard motor according to claim 14, wherein the air inlet formed on the intake duct is positioned above a lowermost one of the intake pipes.

16. (New) An outboard motor comprising:

an outer cover;

an engine disposed inside the outer cover and comprising a crankcase, a cylinder block and a cylinder head, which are operatively connected to each other in the outer cover;

an intake unit provided for the engine and comprising a throttle body disposed in front of the crankcase and an intake manifold disposed on a side of the engine extending from the throttle body, said intake manifold having a plurality of intake pipes extending towards and connecting to intake ports formed in the cylinder head and having a surge tank disposed on a downstream side of the throttle body and adjacent the crankcase, the intake pipes connecting the surge tank and the intake ports;

a fuel injector unit disposed between a sidewall of the engine and the intake manifold;
and

a fuel supply unit disposed on a downstream side of the fuel injector unit between the side wall of the engine and the intake manifold, the fuel supply unit comprising a vapor separator disposed adjacent the fuel injector unit, wherein the fuel injector unit is disposed on a crankcase side of the vapor separator.